

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3185

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15846

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: DEBT PROPOSAL BY EGON BAHR

REF: STATE 226372

1. WE HAVE DISCREETLY EXPLORED BAHR'S PROPOSAL WITH STEEG, ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN ECON/MIN AND WITH LAUTENSCHLAGER, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC MATTERS IN THE FONMIN, BOTH OF WHOM MAINTAIN THAT THEY NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A PROPOSAL.

2. FRAU STEEG SAID SHE WAS SURE THAT IF THE QUESTION HAD EVER BEEN POSED BY BAHR TO HER MINISTER, SHE WOULD HAVE KNOWN ABOUT IT. SHE OPINED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL COULD HAVE BEEN EXPLORED BY THE EXPERTS AS ONE OF MANY POSSIBILITIES. SHE INTENDS TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY AND WILL LET US KNOW WHAT SHE FINDS OUT. SHE SAID THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY WOULD RESIST STRONGLY ANY ATTEMPT TO BRING ABOUT A MORATORIUM OR RESCHEDULING OF COMMERCIAL DEBTS, ALTHOUGH SHE SAID BOTH MORATORIUM AND/OR RESCHEDULING OF COMMERCIAL OR GOVERNMENT INDEBTEDNESS COULD BE DONE IN THE FRG WITHOUT ANY NEW LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY.

3. LAUTENSCHLAGER SAID THE IDEA WAS COMPLETELY NEW TO HIM AND THAT HE COULD HARDLY COMMENT ON THE
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SUBSTANCE OF BAHR'S SUGGESTION. HE COULD IMAGINE,

HOWEVER, THAT THE FINANCE MINISTRY WOULD NOT BE HAPPY.

4. WE WILL REPORT SITUATION IN OTHER MINISTRIES AS
IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

HILLENBRAND

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